

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

SS-15 L-03 H-02 NSC-05 /073 W
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R 270842Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9460
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 6960

NOFORN

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, GB

SUBJECT: GABON PLAN TO QUIT AIR AFRIQUE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1223

1. GIVEN STATED USG POLICY OF FOSTERING REGIONAL AIRLINES
AND BEARING IN MIND CURRENT WAVE OF NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS
BILATERAL CIVAIR AGREEMENTS COUPLED WITH DEMANDS FOR ROUTES
TO THE USA, THIS POST VIEWS WITH GREAT CONCERN THE APPARENT
INTENTION OF GABON TO QUIT AIR AFRIQUE. EMBASSY FIRMLY BELIEVES
THAT THE USG SHOULD NOT FOSTER OR SUPPORT THE WITHDRAWAL OF GABON NOR
THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT GABONESE AIRLINE, WHETHER BY
FACILITATING THE LEASING OR PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT OR BY
ENCOURAGING THE GOG IN WHAT MUST BE A POLITICAL RATHER THAN
AN ECONOMIC DECISION.

2. STATEMENT IN PARA 2 OF REFTTEL THAT AIR AFRIQUE LARGELY CONTROL-
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LED BY HOUPHOUET AND DOMINATED BY IVORIANS FAILS TO

TAKE ACCOUNT OF GABONESE AIR AFRIQUE VICE PRESIDENT
EKAMKAM OR THE SINCERE EFFORTS MADE BY IVORY COAST AT LAST
YEAR'S SUMMIT TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE EXPRESSED INTERESTS
OF ITS PARTNERS IN THE AIRLINE. EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE
THAT PDG OF AIR AFRIQUE AOUSSOU KOFFI BENDS OVER BACKWARD
TO MAINTAIN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF AFRICAN NATIONALS
WORKING AT AIRLINE.

3. WHILE AVIATION CIRCLES HERE HAVE APPARENTLY NOT SENSED
GABON'S INTENT, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
WOULD REVIVE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY AIR AFRIQUE EXECUTIVES
LAST YEAR THAT "CERTAIN US AIRCRAFT MAKERS" WISHED TO SABOTAGE
THE AIRLINE BY GOING OVER THE HEADS OF MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING
THEIR PLANS TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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